

Serial No: 10/783,390
Attorney Docket No: 60,449-095

REMARKS

The Examiner has objected to the drawings. Replacement drawings are attached. This should address the Examiner's objections.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-31 as obvious over Owechko (US 6,801,662) in view of Tsai (US 2002/0076088). The Examiner admits that Owechko does not disclose "dividing the image into a plurality of subimages of predetermined spatial regions, generating a spatial feature matrix of the image based upon the plurality of subimages, and analyzing the spatial feature matrix." Applicant has amended the independent claims to clarify that the subimages are of different spatial regions. In Tsai, the sub-images are the same spatial region, but are different resolutions and different channels. Therefore, even if Owechko were modified in light of Tsai, the claimed invention would not be achieved.

Additionally, there is no motivation for modifying the Owechko system in light of Tsai. Tsai breaks an image of a face into sub-images of varying resolutions and different channels for the purpose of identifying the person from a large database of faces. The breakdown of the facial image into lower-resolution images and different channels is for the purpose of reducing the amount of computation that is required. In other words, the system first tries to identify the face using the lower-resolution images, which require less computation time. In an occupant classification system, such as Owechko, the face of the occupant is unimportant and there is no need to individually identify occupant, but only to classify the occupant. Thus, the computation is much lower. Nor is there any indication that lower-resolution sub-images or sub-images of different channels would be useful for occupant classification. Therefore, there is no motivation for modifying Owechko to use the Tsai technique.

Serial No: 10/783,390
Attorney Docket No: 60,449-095

Please charge \$510 for a three-month extension of time. If any additional fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-1482 in the name of Carlson, Gaskey & Olds, P.C. for any additional fees. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS



John E. Carlson
Registration No. 37,794
400 W. Maple, Suite 350
Birmingham, MI 48009
(248) 988-8360

Dated: January 9, 2006